

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 194929 TOSEC 200070

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ORIGIN SS-25

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 194929 TOSEC 200070

EXDIS FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS FOR DJEREJIAN TO USE WITH LEBANESE  
MARONITE LEADERS

1. THE FOLLOWING, AS YOU REQUESTED, ARE DRAFT TALKING  
POINTS FOR USE BY THE OFFICER WHO TRAVELS TO EAST BEIRUT TO  
CONTACT THE CHRISTIAN MARONITE LEADERS. AS YOU KNOW, IT  
IS OUR PRESENT PLAN TO SEND IN DJEREJIAN, PRESENTLY  
STATIONED IN BORDEAUX, TO SPEND SEVERAL DAYS IN DISCUSSIONS  
AND THEN TO COME OUT AND REPORT TO US THE RESULTS OF HIS  
CONVERSATIONS. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE  
HIM DURING YOUR EUROPEAN STOPS, WE WOULD BRING HIM TO WASH-  
INGTON ON YOUR RETURN SO THAT YOU CAN TALK WITH HIM BEFORE  
HE GOES TO LEBANON.

2. TALKING POINTS:

-- SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO COME TO  
LEBANON TO MEET WITH MARONITE LEADERS. IT HAS BEEN A  
MATTER OF CONCERN TO HIM THAT SUCH A LONG PERIOD HAS GONE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 194929 TOSEC 200070

BY WITHOUT CONTACT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

AND THE LEADERS OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN LEBANON.  
AS YOU WILL UNDERSTAND, SECURITY CONDITIONS IN BEIRUT  
HAVE BEEN SUCH THAT AMBASSADOR SEELYE WAS UNABLE TO CROSS  
TO EAST BEIRUT DURING THE PERIOD OF HIS MISSION IN THE

CITY. WE THEN WANTED HIM TO PROCEED AT ONCE TO WASHINGTON  
FOR CONSULTATIONS. WE CANNOT SAY AT THIS TIME WHETHER HE  
MIGHT RETURN TO LEBANON, BUT HE WILL NOT DO SO FOR SOME  
TIME AT LEAST. THE SECRETARY, KNOWING THAT I HAVE BEEN  
ACQUAINTED WITH THE LEBANESE SCENE, BROUGHT ME FROM  
BORDEAUX FOR CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON AND HAS DIRECTED  
THAT I PROCEED HERE FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF MEETING  
WITH MARONITE LEADERS. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, OF COURSE,  
BEIRUT EMBASSY WILL BE BACK IN REGULAR CONTACT.

-- AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE RECENTLY REDUCED FURTHER THE SIZE  
OF OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT AND HAVE EVACUATED ADDITIONAL  
PRIVATE AMERICANS WHO WISHED TO LEAVE. THIS MOVE WAS  
MOTIVATED ENTIRELY BY THE WORSENING CONDITIONS OF LIFE IN  
WEST BEIRUT. IT IN NO WAY REFLECTS A DECREASE IN AMERICAN  
CONCERN FOR LEBANON OR IN OUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP TOWARD  
A SOLUTION OF THE LEBANESE PROBLEM. THE FACT OF THE  
MATTER IS, HOWEVER, THAT MOVEMENT AND COMMUNICATION HAVE  
BECOME SO DIFFICULT THAT OUR ABILITY TO PLAY A HELPFUL  
ROLE HAS BEEN REDUCED FOR THE MOMENT.

-- SINCE YOUR LAST CONTACT WITH OFFICIAL AMERICAN REPRE-  
SENTATIVES, THE MILITARY SITUATION HAS CHANGED SUBSTAN-  
TIALY TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE CHRISTIAN FORCES. THIS  
ALTERED MILITARY SITUATION HAS LED TO VARIOUS REPORTS  
ABOUT THE STRATEGY AND AIMS OF THE CHRISTIANS OR THE LIKELY  
OUTCOME OF THE CONFLICT.

-- THESE REPORTS DOUBTLESS IN MANY CASES REFLECT THE GOALS  
OF OTHER ELEMENTS IN THE LEBANESE CONFLICT AND WE WOULD  
LIKE TO HEAR DIRECTLY FROM YOU HOW YOU VIEW THE SITUATION  
AND HOW YOU WOULD HOPE TO SEE IT DEVELOP.

-- FOR THE SHORT-RUN A KEY QUESTION IS THE SUCCESS OF  
EFFORTS FOR A CEASEFIRE. HAS THE STAGE BEEN REACHED WHERE  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 194929 TOSEC 200070

A VIABLE CEASEFIRE IS A REALISTIC POSSIBILITY? AT WHAT  
POINT WOULD YOU SEE THE POLITICAL PROCESS STARTING AGAIN?

-- YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LONGER-RUN OUTLOOK ARE ALSO OF  
CONTINUING INTEREST TO US. IN THIS RESPECT, THE QUESTION  
OF A SECURITY FORCE TO BE AT THE DISPOSITION OF A NEW  
LEBANESE GOVERNMENT STILL SEEMS TO BE OF KEY IMPORTANCE.  
THE PLACE OF THE PALESTINIANS IN ANY NEW ARRANGEMENT IS

OBTAINING ALSO A MAJOR FACTOR. MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, OF COURSE, ARE THE BROAD OUTLINES OF THE LEBANON THAT WILL EMERGE FROM THE CONFLICT.

-- FINALLY, SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO STRESS WITH YOU OUR CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR A SOLUTION THAT WILL PRESERVE THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON, AND ITS NATIONAL UNITY AND COHESION. WE HAVE SUPPORTED, AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT, SYRIAN EFFORTS TO WORK OUT A POLITICAL SOLUTION. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT SOME SOLUTION ALONG THE LINES OF THE FEBRUARY COMPROMISE SIGNED BY PRESIDENT FRANGIE REPRESENTS THE BEST CHANCE FOR LONG TERM STABILITY IN LEBANON. WE RECOGNIZE THAT BEFORE THERE CAN BE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO ACHIEVE SUCH A COMPROMISE, THERE MUST BE A CEASEFIRE THAT WILL PERMIT THE VARIOUS LEBANESE FACTIONS TO MEET TOGETHER. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY URGED ON ALL THE LEBANESE FACTIONS--AND AMBASSADOR SEELYE TOOK THIS POSITION WITH THOSE POLITICAL LEADERS HE WAS ABLE TO SEE IN WEST BEIRUT--AN END TO THE FIGHTING AND PROGRESS TOWARD A POLITICAL COMPROMISE THAT WOULD LEAD TO THE REINSTITUTION OF A GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE LEBANESE.

-- IF THE QUESTION ARISES OF CHAMOUN'S ROLE AS FOREIGN MINISTER OR OF FRANGIE'S RESIGNATION, YOU SHOULD SAY THAT, REGARDING CHAMOUN, THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY, WITH AN ACTIVE CIVIL CONFLICT, NO EFFECTIVE COUNTRY-WIDE AUTHORITY, AND WIDESPREAD DISORDER, SEEMS TO US TO MAKE MOOT QUESTIONS SUCH AS THIS AND WE HAVE TAKEN NO POSITION ON THE MATTER. WHAT IS NEEDED IS A CEASEFIRE AND THE RECONSTRUCTION OF A LEBANESE GOVERNMENT UNDER SARKIS. IF THE QUESTION OF FRANGIE'S RESIGNATION ARISES SEPARATELY, SAY THAT WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY PRESSED FOR THE CONTINUATION  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 194929 TOSEC 200070

OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS LEADING TO THE INSTALLATION OF SARKIS AS PRESIDENT, AND WE STILL DO. WE ASSUME THAT SARKIS WILL IN ANY EVENT BE INAUGURATED AS PRESIDENT ON SEPTEMBER 23, WHEN THE PRESIDENTIAL TERM OF OFFICE ENDS, IF NOT BEFORE. HABIB

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